



August, 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Fact Sheet

Update – Duwamish Seafood Advisory Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, Washington

Health Consultation Completed

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has completed a draft health consultation to update the Lower Duwamish Waterway fish consumption advisory that has been in effect since July 2002. Recent fish tissue data collected as part of the ongoing Remedial Investigation (cleanup) of the Lower Duwamish Waterway site in Seattle, Washington has prompted the Washington State Department of Health to re-evaluate the existing advisory.

Site Background

The Lower Duwamish Waterway site includes about 6 miles of the Duwamish River south of downtown Seattle. The site is heavily industrialized but is located among residential homes from the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods. There are over 100 storm drains, combined sewer overflows, and miscellaneous outfalls that empty into the river. Many chemicals have been released into the river over the past 100 years. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the Lower Duwamish Waterway, as a Superfund Site on September 13, 2001.



Warning sign on Spokane Street Bridge – a popular fishing spot on the Duwamish River.

Contaminants of Concern

The primary contaminants of concern in the Duwamish River are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These chemicals are known to cause developmental problems in infants and children, and may cause cancer in humans.

Conclusions & Recommendations

1. Recent samples of resident fish and crab in the Duwamish River revealed levels of PCBs that are higher than previous samples.
2. **Eating Duwamish resident fish, crab and shellfish may be hazardous to your health.**
3. **Do not eat any resident fish (e.g. English sole, starry flounder, perch, etc.), shellfish or crab from the Duwamish River.**
4. Future updates of advisory will be based on long-term fish tissue monitoring trends.

For a free copy of the health consultation, call Toll Free or e-mail:

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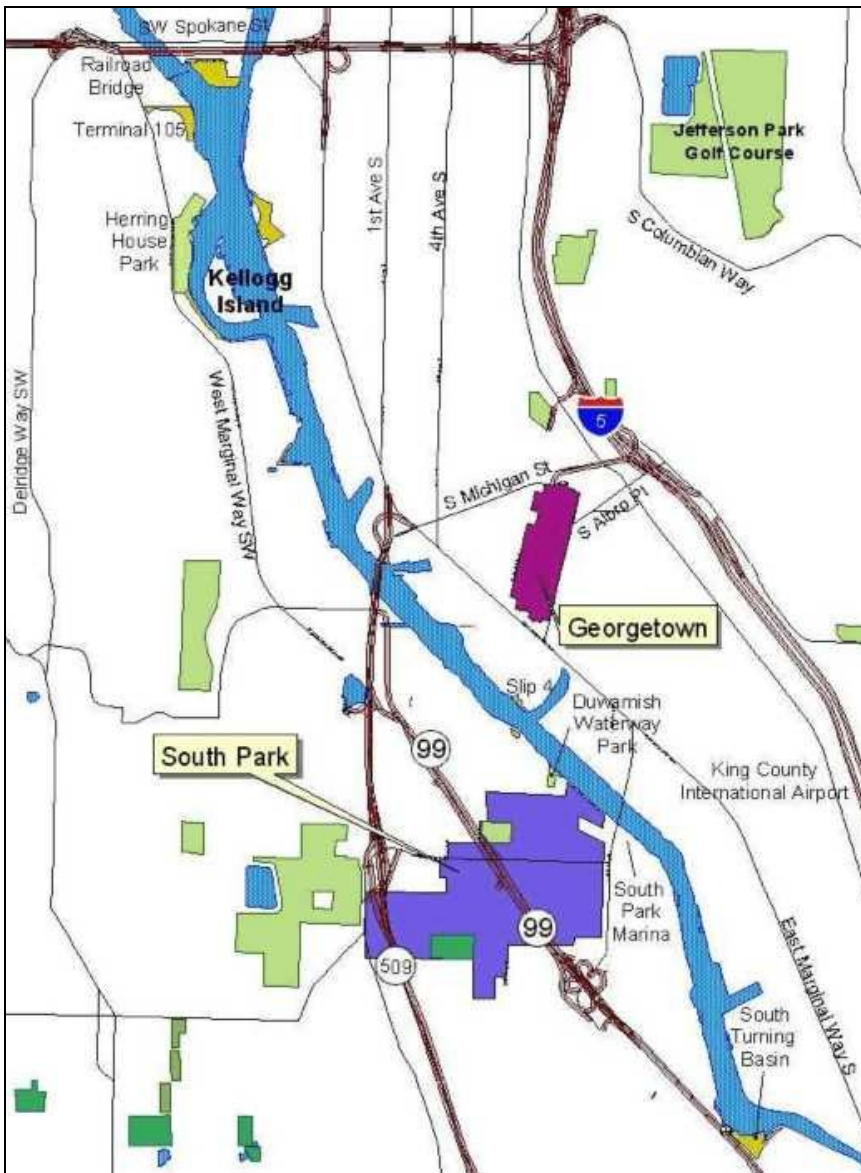
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Please see the following website for more information:

www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/eha_fish_adv.htm

Duwamish River, Seattle, Washington



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